

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With respect to the examiner's remarks in her section 1, applicant understands that the examination of two different aspects: apparatus and method potentially would require two different examiners and that this would necessitate the use of more than the allotted time for initial examination of this case, which would place a burden on the examiner. Applicant therefore accepts the examiner's final determination of the election and traversal thereof and hereby agrees that examiner's group I, method claims 1 and 2 are now under examination and hereby cancels claims 3 and 4.

With respect to the examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 2, under 35 USC 112 and remarks in her section 2, your applicant believes the new claims 5 and 6 (replacing claims 1 and 2) overcome the 112 rejection by more distinctly pointing out the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention and eliminating term conflicts. The grit sizes specified on page 4, lines 10-13, of the description, and now in new claims 5 and 6, i.e., 320, 600 and 1500 are well known in the art and refer to CAMI (Coated Abrasive Manufacturers Institute) numbers which define the roughness of sanding surfaces with the larger grit numbers associated with the finer or less rough surfaces. Those of skill in the field of the present invention would have no trouble in understanding what is meant by such designations, or in finding commercial sanding papers by the use of these designations because the only other numerical system used for designating grades of sanding surfaces is the so-called ISO/FEPA Grit designations which all have the suffix "P" proceeding the numerical portion of the reference number. The terms "fine," etc. to designate paper roughness, are now replaced by grit numbers to avoid ambiguity, and "high gloss" has been replaced with a time duration limitation. The terminology in new claims 5 and 6 avoid the other problems cited in the cancelled claims. Step sequence has now been defined in claim 5.

Of the original claims filed in this application, claims 1-4 are now cancelled and new claims 5 and 6 have been added.

With respect to the examiner's 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 2, in her section 4, your applicant defends claims 5 and 6 recognizing that others such as Foster teach the servicing of automotive lenses including replacing a hard material overcoating. However, Foster teaches only cleaning and polishing steps prior to overcoating with a new UV curable layer. This is well known. Foster fails to recognize or suggest a solution to the repair of badly pitted, scared and damaged automotive lenses. Up until now, it has been the practice in this field to replace such damaged lenses because it has been considered to be impractical to repair them, and very impractical to do so without removing them from the vehicle. Replacement is a costly solution. The present method is a much less expensive approach which results in bringing the existing lenses back to their original condition. Also, the present method is able to be practiced in a parking lot by mobile technicians thereby avoiding the wait for ordering new parts and the inconvenience of using a repair shop. Furthermore, the present method is the only solution for vehicles being restored where replacement lenses are not available. In summary then, as the examiner has stated, Foster does not teach the present method, but only suggests cleaning and light polishing of lenses while mounted on a vehicle. In this respect, Foster teaches away from dealing with lenses mounted on vehicles where damage is significant.

Miyazawa primarily teaches the use of novel polishing pads and is not directed to the removal of damage to lenses, i.e., the removal of surface grooves, pits and scars. Rather, Miyazawa teaches the polishing of semi-finished lenses. With respect to claims 5 and 6 of the present invention, Miyazawa fails to teach the specific grit size ranges which have been found to produce much superior results with the least labor particularly because automotive lenses are made of polycarbonate plastic. Miyazawa also fails to teach the instant buffing step and the application of approximately 1.1 micron sized

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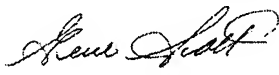
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particle polishing compound applied by atomizer. This is considered to be necessary in the present invention to achieve a uniform coating on both lens and polishing pad.

Miyazawa also fails to teach the use of a napped poromeric pad which is considered necessary to superior results. Finally, Miyazawa fails to teach the present method sequence of steps overall which is not obvious to one of skill in the art, and especially to use with mounted automotive lenses. Therefore, claims 5 and 6 are now in condition for allowance and applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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